

**1984**

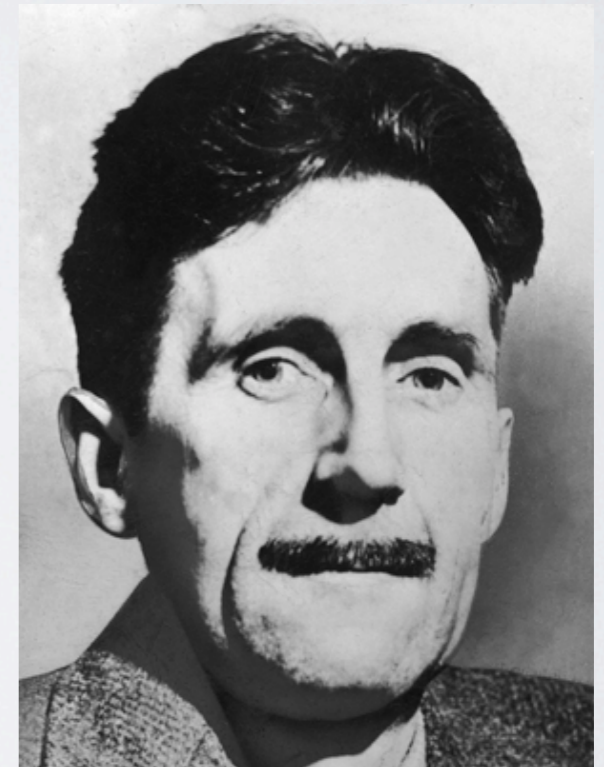
Lesson #11

# TODAY'S AGENDA

1. Journal Entry #3 due
2. 1984 review & discussion
3. Individual quiz preparation  
**(Quiz on Tuesday, October 15)**

# REVIEW - ORWELL

- The name **George Orwell** is a pseudonym - he was born Eric Arthur Blair in 1903
- First work published in 1933 (*Down and Out in Paris and London*)
- Best known for *Animal Farm* (1945) and *1984* (1949)
- Died in January of 1950 of tuberculosis



# 1984

- **Dark, satirical political science-fiction novel:**
  - **Dark** in the sense of depicting a very bleak, dystopian society
  - **Satirical** because it uses irony, exaggeration, and to some degree, ridicule to criticize within a political context
  - **Science-fiction** because it depicts an imagined future and major social changes

# 1984

- Many aspects of Oceania's society are based on or are exaggerated versions of true political philosophies or historical events that occurred around the time that Orwell wrote the novel (**SEE LESSON #1, SLIDE #6 FOR MORE INFORMATION**)

What was George Orwell's  
purpose in writing **1984**?

# PURPOSE OF **1984**

- **1984** was meant to act as a powerful warning against the dangers of a totalitarian society
- Orwell had witnessed the dangers of absolute political authority himself, especially as technological advances continued to progress
- He imagined a horrible, bleak **dystopia**, with the intention of portraying what can be considered one of the worst human societies imaginable in an effort to convince readers to avoid any path that might lead toward such social degradation

# WINSTON SMITH

**List as many characteristics or traits as possible:**



# WINSTON SMITH

- **Protagonist**
- **Common man**
- **Frail and thin**
- **39 years old**
- **Member of the Outer Party**
- **Employed by the Records Department at the Ministry of Truth**
- **Strong reasoning abilities**
- **Rebellious**
- **Pensive**
- **Curious**
- **Desperate to understand the Party in every sense**
- **Fatalist**
- **Passionate**
- **Dedicated**
- **Paranoid**
- **Helpless**
- **Risk-taker**
- **An “unperson”**
- **Broken**

JULIA

**List as many characteristics or traits as possible:**

# JULIA

- **26 years old**
- **Sexually driven**
- **Rebellious**
- **Dark hair**
- **Employee of the Fiction Department at the Ministry of Truth**
- **Wears an ironic anti-sex sash**
- **Appears to be a zealous Party member**
- **Passionate**
- **Easily bored**
- **Concerned with outwitting the Party on a smaller scale**
- **Risk-taker**
- **Sneaky**
- **Sensual**
- **Content to live in the spur of the moment**
- **Practical**

# O'BRIEN

**List as many characteristics or traits as possible:**

# O'BRIEN

- **Mysterious**
- **Member of the Inner Party**
- **Burly man with a thick neck**
- **Brutal face**
- **Wears black overalls**
- **About 40 years old**
- **Powerful**
- **Cunning**
- **Deceitful**
- **Duplicitous**
- **Cruel**
- **Knowledgable**
- **Highly devoted to the Party**

# THEME

- The easiest way to verify your theme as legitimate is to make sure that both of the following elements are present:

**THEME**

=

**UNIVERSALITY**

+

**AN ASPECT OF THE HUMAN CONDITION**

Taking into consideration the formula for theme, **can you think of a theme or themes that are present in 1984?**

# THEMES

- **The Dangers of Totalitarianism:**

- Orwell portrays the perfect totalitarian society in **1984**. By making the title a real year that would come to pass, Orwell's story was meant to represent a real possibility for the near future - if totalitarianism were not opposed, the society depicted in his novel could realistically come to exist in only 35 years



# THEMES

- **The importance of independence and individual identity:**
  - The Party's use of physical and psychological manipulation makes clear just how important both independence and individual identity are
  - Being free, independent, and having a clear idea of who one is as an individual brings meaning to life and allows human beings to thrive

# THEMES

- **The Dangers of Psychological Manipulation and Physical Control:**
  - We see this explored in the novel through the use of psychological stimuli and physical torture designed to overwhelm the mind's capacity for independent thought
  - Use of propaganda and technology
  - Destruction of the family
  - Suppression of emotion and sexual desire

# THEMES

- **The Desolation of Loneliness and Isolation:**

- Characters in the novel suffer from not being able or allowed to create meaningful connections (based on feeling and emotion) with others
- Even when the attempt at a deeper connection is made (Winston & Julia), the emotions and desires involved are warped or misunderstood

# INDIVIDUAL QUIZ PREPARATION

- **TWO PARTS:**

- Part One = **Five to ten** short, closed-ended questions  
(NO NOVEL)
- Part Two = **Three to five** short-answer questions  
(WITH NOVEL)

# SAMPLE PART I QUESTIONS

- Name the soldier Winston creates to embody the admirable characteristics of all Party members.

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# SAMPLE PART I QUESTIONS

- Name the soldier Winston creates to embody the admirable characteristics of all Party members.

Comrade Ogilvy

# SAMPLE PART I QUESTIONS

- Name the forced exercise Winston must perform after waking up every day.

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# SAMPLE PART I QUESTIONS

- Name the forced exercise Winston must perform after waking up every day.

The Physical Jerks